5 States Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim have reported that there are no dry latrines or they are scavengers free.

2 States Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh have enacted their own Act.

The State of Jammu & Kashmir is yet to adopt the Act. States/UTs have been requested to implement the Act effectively from time to time.

Plans to meet housing shortage

1092. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether both India and China face acute housing shortage in the urban areas;

(b) whether it is also a fact that while China has worked out a viable solution, India lacks institutional financial options for the poor and the rising cost of property are the major barriers being faced by this country; and

(c) the action plan of Government on reserving land, adopting vertical constructions in congested areas, reducing prices through use of low cost material, etc. to measure up to the challenge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) Urbanisation is a global phenomenon and both India and China face challenge of growing urban housing requirements. The Technical Group (11th Five Year Plan: 2007-2012) on estimation of urban housing shortage has estimated urban housing shortage as 24.71 million dwelling units at the end of 10th Five Year Plan.

Housing being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Central Government has been taking several initiatives for addressing the issue of housing shortage from time to time. The Government, with a view to encourage urban poor to avail of loan facility has made a budget provision of Rs. 30 crore for the financial year 2007-08 under the interest Subsidy Scheme of Housing for the Urban Poor (ISSHUP).

Keeping in view the changing socio-economic parameters of the urban areas and growing requirement of shelter and related infrastructure, it has been decided to have a new National Urban Housing and Habitat Policy in place of the existing National Housing Policy 1998. The draft National Urban Housing and Habitat Policy 2007 seeks to bridge the gap between need and supply of housing and infrastructure and *inter-alia* provides for accelerating the pace of development of housing and related infrastructure; creating adequate and affordable housing stock both on rental and ownership basis including by use and promotion of cost effective building materials/technology; encouraging State Governments/Development Authorities to periodically review, their master plans and zonal plans; and facilitating accelerated supply of serviced land for housing with particular focus on Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and Lower Income Groups (LIG).

Survey of Urban Poor

1093. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to conduct an all India survey of urban poor;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) The Planning Commission releases estimates of urban poor from time to time based on the national sample surveys conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). Recently, Planning Commission has released State-wise estimates of urban poor for the year 2004-2005 on the basis of 61st Round of NSSO survey. At present, there is no proposal to conduct all India survey of the urban poor.

Human Rigths of PIOs

1094. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any discussions have recently taken place for the protection of the human rights of the people of Indian origin;

(b) whether international treaties are obstacles in this regard;

(c) whether discussions have been held to bring this matter under the purview of Human Rights Commission of India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) India is a party of the core international conventions on human rights namely- International Conenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights 1966; International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966; International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, 1966; Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against women, 1979; Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989; Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, 2000; and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, 2000. These conventions/treaties facilitate the protection of Human rights of Indian, that includes PIOs and are in no way an obstacle/impediment.

Ill-Treatment of women Employees in Gulf countries

1095. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are complaints of ill-treatment of women employees and refusal of timely payment of wages, cancellation of work permit/visa to Indian citizens working in Gulf countries;

(b) if so, the number of such complaints, category-wise as on today;